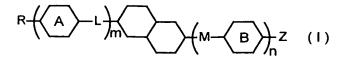
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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A composition represented by general formula (I):



(wherein, R and Z may be substituted with a halogen and represent alkyl groups or alkoxy groups having 1-16 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2-16 carbon atoms, alkenyloxy groups having 3-16 carbon atoms, alky# groups having 1-12 carbon atoms substituted with an alkoxy group having 1-10 carbon atoms, hydrogen atoms, flugrine atoms, chlorine atoms, trifluoromethoxy groups, difluor methoxy groups,

trifluoromethyl groups, 3,3,3-\rifluoroethoxy groups, cyano groups, cyanato groups, hydroxy groups or carboxy groups, m and n may be the same or different and respectively and independently represent an /integer of 0-2, m+n≤3, L and M may be the same or different and respectively and independently represent $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_1(QH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_1(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, -CF₂O-, -OCF₂-, -COO-, \neq OCO-, -CH=CH-, -CF=CF-, $\underline{-C}\equiv$ C-,

the same or different and respectively and independently represent a trans-1/4-cyclohexylene group in which one CH2 group or more than one non-adjacent CH2 groups in the group may be replaced by -O- or -S-, a 1,4-phenylene group in which one CH2 group or more than one non-adjacent CH2 groups in the group may be replaced by -N=, a 1,4-cyclohexenylene group, 1,4-bicyclo(2,2,2)octylene group, piperidine-1,4-diyl group,

 $-(CH_2)_4$ or a single bond, rings A and B when present may be

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naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group or 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, and although these may be substituted with a cyano group or halogen, in the case m or n represents 2, at least one of the two L or M present represents a single bond; provided that the following cases are excluded:

- i. case in which m and n represent 0, R represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group;
- ii. case in which either m or n/represents 1, the other of m 10 or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L or/M when present represents a single bond, R or Z bonded $t\phi$ a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-cyclohexylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl 15 group, alkoxy group or alkenyloxy group; iii. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A β r ring B when present represents a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L when present represents -OCO- or M 20 when present represents -COO-, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene /ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-cyclohexylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group; case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or
- non-substituted 1/4-phenylene group, L when present represents -OCO- or M when present represents -COO-, L or M when present

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represents a single bond, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents an alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-phenylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group, alkoxy group, hydroxyl group, hydrogen atom, carboxyl group or cyano group;

- v. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represent a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group, L or M when present represents a single bond, R or Z bonded to a
- decahydronaphthalene ring représents a non-substituted alkoxy group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-phenylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group;
- n represents 0, ring A or/ring B when present represents a

 15 trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group, L when
 present represents -OCO+, M when present represents -COO+ or L
 or M when present represent a single bond, and R and Z
 represent non-substituted alkoxy groups;

case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or

- vii. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a non-substituted naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, L when present represents -OCO- or M when present represents -COO-, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a naphthalene-
- 25 2,6-diyl group represents a non-substituted alkyl group, bromine atom or cyano group, or the case in which R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-

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substituted alkoxy group, and R or Z bonded to a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group;

viii. case in which n represents 2, m represents 0, R represents a non-substituted alkyl group, M when present adjacent to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents -COO-, at least one of rings B present represents a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group or bromine atom, or the case in which at least one of rings B present represents a pyrimidine-2,5-diyl group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group, alkoxy group or cyano group;

ix. case in which m and n represent 1, ring A represents a trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group or a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, ring B represents a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group or 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L represents a single bond, M represents -COO-, -OCO-, -CH₂O- or -OCH₂-, and R and Z represent non-substituted alkyl groups; and,

applying similarly to compounds equivalent to the above using combinations of the abbreviations).

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, ring A and ring B when present respectively and independently represent a 1,4-phenylene group, naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group that may be

substituted with fluorine atom(s).

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- 3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, ring A or ring B when present respectively and independently represent a 1,4-phenylene group or trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group that may be substituted with fluorine atom(s).
- 4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, L and M when present represent $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-OCF_2-$, -COO-, -OCO-, -CF=CF- or a single bond.
- 10 5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, L or M represents a single bond
 - 6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, L and M represent single bonds.
 - 7. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, $1 \le m + n \le 2$.
 - 8. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R represents an alkyl group, alkoxy group, alkenyl group or alkenyloxy group having 1-12 carbon atoms.
 - 9. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, Z represents a halogen atom or an alkyl group, alkoxy group, alkenyl group, alkenyloxy group or cyano group having 1-12 carbon atoms.
 - 10. A compound according to plaim 1 wherein, R represents an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 1-12 carbon atoms, m

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represents 1, n represents 1, ring A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, ring B represents a 3-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group or 3,5-difluoro-1,4-phenylene group, L and M represent single bonds, and Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethoxy group, difluoromethoxy group, trifluoromethyl group, 3,3,3-trifluoroethoxy group or cyano group.

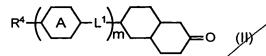
- 11. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R represents an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 1-12 carbon atoms, m represents 0 n represents 1, ring B represents a 3-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group or 3,5-difluoro-1,4-phenylene group, M represents a single bond and Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethoxy group, difluoromethoxy group, trifluoromethyl group, 3,3,3-trifluoroethoxy group or cyano group.
- 12. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R and Z represent alkyl groups or alkenyl groups having 1-12 carbon

 20 atoms, m and n represent 1, rings A and B represent 1,4phenylene groups or trans-1,4-cyclohexylene groups, and L and
 M represent single bonds.
- 13. A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R and Z

 25 represent alkyl groups or alkenyl groups having 1-12 carbon atoms, at least one of R or Z represents an alkenyl group, m represents 1, n represents 0, rings A and B represent 1,4-

phenylene groups or trans-1,4-cyclohexylene groups, and L represents a single bond.

A compound represented by general formula (II):



- 5 (wherein, R⁴ represents an alkyl group, alkoxy group, alkenyl group, alkenyloxy group or alkoxyalkyl group, L¹ represents -CH₂CH₂-, -CH(CH₃)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-, -CF₂O-, -OCF₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -CF=CF-, -C≡C-, -O(CH₂)₃-, -(CH₂)₃O-, -(CH₂)₄- or a single bond, R⁴ represents an alkenyl group, alkenyloxy group or alkoxyalkyl group when L¹ represents a single bond, ring A and m are the same as defined in general formula (I), and the decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form).
- 15 15. A production method of general formula (II) according to claim 14 including: reducing a compound represented by general formula (II-A):

(wherein, R⁴ is the same as previously defined in general formula (II), ring E represents a 1,4-phenylene group or trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, L and m are the same as previously defined in general formula (I), and the decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form), and oxidizing the

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hydroxyl group as necessary.

16. (Amended) A compound represented by general formula (V-2):

$$U^1 = \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} - L - \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} = U^2 \quad (V-2)$$

(wherein, U^1 and U^2 respectively and independently represent an oxygen atom or the following structure:

(wherein, k represents an integer from 1 to 7), L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I), and the decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form).

10 17. (Amended) A production method of general formula (V-2) according to claim 16 or general formula (V-1):

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} \bigcup_{j=1}^{n} (V-j)$$

(wherein, U¹ and U²/respectively and independently represent an oxygen atom or the following structure:

(wherein, k represents an integer from 1 to 7), L is the same

as previously defined in general formula (I), and the

decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form)

the method including: converting a compound represented by general formula (V-1A) or general formula (V-2A):

$$(CH_2)_k$$
 O $CV-2A)$

(wherein, k is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-2), and L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I)) into an enamine using a secondary amine, and reacting it with methyl vinyl ketone to obtain a compound represented by general formula (V-1B) or general formula (V-2B)

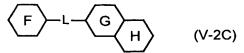
(wherein, k is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-2), and L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I)) followed by reductive hydrogenation.

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18. (Amended) A production method of general formula (V-1) according to claim 17 including: reducing a compound represented by formula (V-1C) by hydrogen in the presence of metal catalyst:

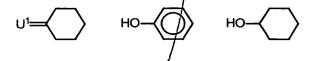
oxidizing the hydroxyl groups as necessary, and protecting the carbonyl groups as necessary.

19. A production method of general formula (V-2) according to claim 16 including: reducing a compound represented by general formula (V-2C):



(wherein, although ring G represents a cyclohexane ring or

5 benzene ring, a single bond(s) of the cyclohexane ring may be
replaced by double bond(s), and although rings F and H
respectively and independently represent the following
structures:



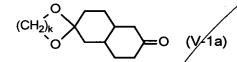
(wherein, U^1 is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-1) or general formula (V-2)), a single bond(s) of the cyclohexane ring may be replaced by double bond(s)), oxidizing the hydroxyl group as necessary, and further protecting the carbonyl group as necessary.

ALC ALC

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20. A production method of general formula (V-la):



(wherein, k is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-1) or general formula (V-2)), which is one of the structures of general formula (V-1) according to claim 16, including monoacetalation of a compound represented by general formula (V-1D):

- 21. A liquid crystal composition containing a compound according to any of claims 1 through 13.
 - 22. A liquid crystal device having for its constituent feature the liquid crystal composition according to claim 14.

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- 23. An active matrix drive, liquid crystal device that uses the liquid crystal composition according to claim 14.
- 24. A super twisted nematic liquid crystal device that uses the liquid crystal composition according to claim 14.